

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a base station, said method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

[[a)]] upon receiving a request from a mobile client to have media data streamed thereto, said media data comprising an item of content encoded into a first multiple description bitstream and into a second multiple description bitstream, wherein said first multiple description bitstream and said second multiple description bitstream are decodable independent of one another, analyzing a plurality of servers to determine a first candidate server for providing said a first multiple description bitstream to said base station along a first path and a second candidate server for providing said a second multiple description bitstream to said base station along a second path; ~~and~~

[[b)]] sending to said first candidate server a request for said first candidate server to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said base station; and

[[c)]] sending to said second candidate server a request for said second candidate server to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said base station.

2. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a base station as recited in Claim 1, wherein said analyzing step-a) comprises receiving said request from said mobile client at a base station, and forwarding said request to one of said plurality of servers.

3. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a base station as recited in Claim 1, wherein said analyzing step-a) comprises identifying, from said plurality of servers, servers having a route to said base station to provide identified servers.

4. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a base station as recited in Claim 3, wherein said analyzing step-a) comprises intelligently evaluating network parameters for each of said identified servers.

5. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a base station as recited in Claim 4, wherein said analyzing step-a) comprises intelligently evaluating system parameters such as server and network parameters selected from the group consisting of comprising: computation load; network bandwidth to base station; and potential that either said first or said second multiple description bitstreams are previously stored thereon for each of said identified servers.

6. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a base station as recited in Claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

[[d)] upon receiving said request for said first candidate server to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said base station along said first path, performing an admission process to determine whether said first candidate server will provide said first multiple description bitstream to said base station along said first path.

7. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a base station as recited in Claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

[[d)] upon receiving said request for said second candidate server to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said base station along said second path, performing an admission process to determine whether said second candidate server will provide said second multiple description bitstream to said base station along said second path.

8. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a base station as recited in Claim 6, wherein said admission process ~~of step d)~~ provides an outcome selected from the group consisting of ~~comprising~~: granting permission to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said base station, refusing permission to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said base station, and granting permission to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said base station with the identification an existing multiple description bitstream for potential redistribution to another of said plurality of servers.

9. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a base station as recited in Claim 7, wherein said admission process ~~of step d)~~ provides an outcome selected from the group consisting of ~~comprising~~: granting permission to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said base station, refusing permission to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said base station, and granting permission to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said base station with the identification an existing multiple description bitstream for potential redistribution to another of said

plurality of servers.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having computer readable code stored thereon for causing a network device to assign servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a base station, said method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

[[a)] upon receiving a request from a mobile client to have media data streamed thereto, said media data comprising an item of content encoded into a first multiple description bitstream and into a second multiple description bitstream, wherein said first multiple description bitstream and said second multiple description bitstream are decodable independent of one another, said network device analyzing a plurality of servers to determine a first candidate server for providing said a first multiple description bitstream to said base station along a first path and a second candidate server for providing said a second multiple description bitstream to said base station along a second path; ~~and~~

[[b)] sending to said first candidate server a request for said first candidate server to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said base station; and

[[c)] sending to said second candidate server a request for said second candidate server to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said base station.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 10 wherein said computer readable medium further includes computer readable code stored thereon for causing said network device performing said analyzing step a) to receive said request from said mobile client at a base station, and forward said request to one of said plurality of servers.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 10 wherein said computer readable medium further includes computer readable code stored thereon for causing said network device performing said analyzing step a) to identify from said plurality of servers, servers having a route to said base station to provide identified servers.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 12 wherein said computer readable medium further includes computer readable code stored thereon for causing said network device performing said analyzing step a) to evaluate network parameters for each of said identified servers.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 13 wherein said computer readable medium further includes computer readable code stored thereon for causing said network device performing said analyzing step a) to evaluate system parameters such as server and network parameters selected from the group consisting of ~~comprising~~: computation load; network bandwidth to base station; and potential that either said first or said second multiple description bitstreams are previously stored thereon for each of said identified servers.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 10 wherein said computer readable medium further includes computer readable code stored thereon for causing said network device to further perform said method comprising the step of:

[[d)]] upon receiving said request for said first candidate server to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said base station along said first path, performing an admission process to determine whether said first candidate server will provide said first multiple description bitstream

to said base station along said first path.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 10 wherein said computer readable medium further includes computer readable code stored thereon for causing said network device to further perform said method comprising the step of:

[[d]] upon receiving said request for said second candidate server to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said base station along said second path, performing an admission process to determine whether said second candidate server will provide said second multiple description bitstream to said base station along said second path.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 15 wherein said computer readable medium further includes computer readable code stored thereon for causing said network device performing said admission process step-d) to provide an outcome selected from the group consisting of comprising: granting permission to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said base station along said first path, refusing permission to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said base station along said first path, and granting permission to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said base station along said first path with the identification an existing multiple description bitstream for potential redistribution to another of said plurality of servers.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 16 wherein said computer readable medium further includes computer readable code stored thereon for causing said network device performing said admission process step-d) to provide an outcome selected from the group consisting of comprising: granting permission to provide said second

multiple description bitstream to said base station along said second path, refusing permission to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said base station along said second path, and granting permission to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said base station along said second path with the identification an existing multiple description bitstream for potential redistribution to another of said plurality of servers.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a base station, said method comprising the steps of:

[[a)]] upon receiving a request from a mobile client to have media data streamed thereto, said media data comprising an item of content encoded into a first multiple description bitstream and into a second multiple description bitstream, wherein said first multiple description bitstream and said second multiple description bitstream are decodable independent of one another, comprises identifying, from a plurality of servers, servers having a route to said base station to provide identified servers;

[[b)]] intelligently evaluating network parameters for each of said identified servers;

[[c)]] based upon results of said identifying and said evaluating steps a) and b), determining a first candidate server for providing said a first multiple description bitstream to said base station along a first path and a second candidate server for providing said a second multiple description bitstream to said base station along a second path; ~~and~~

[[e)]] sending to said first candidate server a request for said first candidate server to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said base station;

[[e]] sending to said second candidate server a request for said second candidate server to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said base station;

[[f]] upon receiving said request for said first candidate server to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said base station along said first path, performing an admission process to determine whether said first candidate server will provide said first multiple description bitstream to said base station along said first path; and

[[g]] upon receiving said request for said second candidate server to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said base station along said second path, performing an admission process to determine whether said second candidate server will provide said second multiple description bitstream to said base station along said second path.

20. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a base station as recited in Claim 19, wherein said identifying step a) comprises receiving said request from said mobile client at a base station, and forwarding said request to one of said plurality of servers.

21. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a base station as recited in Claim 19, wherein said evaluating step b) comprises intelligently evaluating system parameters such as server and network parameters selected from the group consisting of ~~comprising~~: computation load; network bandwidth to base station; and potential that either said first or said second multiple description bitstreams are previously stored thereon for each of said identified servers.

22. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a base station as recited in Claim 19, wherein said admission process ~~of step f)~~ provides an outcome selected from the group consisting of comprising: granting permission to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said base station, refusing permission to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said base station, and granting permission to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said base station with the identification an existing multiple description bitstream for potential redistribution to another of said plurality of servers.

23. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a base station as recited in Claim 19, wherein said admission process ~~of step f)~~ provides an outcome selected from the group consisting of comprising: granting permission to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said base station, refusing permission to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said base station, and granting permission to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said base station with the identification an existing multiple description bitstream for potential redistribution to another of said plurality of servers.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to respective base stations, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

[[a)]] upon receiving a request from a mobile client to have media data streamed thereto, said media data comprising an item of content encoded into a first multiple description bitstream and into a second multiple description bitstream, wherein said first multiple description

bitstream and said second multiple description bitstream are decodable independent of one another, analyzing a plurality of servers to determine a first candidate server for providing said a first multiple description bitstream to a first base station along a first path and a second candidate server for providing said a second multiple description bitstream to a second base station along a second path; and

[[b)]] sending to said first candidate server a request for said first candidate server to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said first base station; and

[[c)]] sending to said second candidate server a request for said second candidate server to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said second base station.

25. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to respective base stations as recited in Claim 24, wherein said analyzing step a) comprises receiving said request from said mobile client at a base station, and forwarding said request to one of said plurality of servers.

26. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to respective base stations as recited in Claim 24, wherein said analyzing step a) comprises identifying, from said plurality of servers, servers having a route to said first base station and said second base station to provide identified servers.

27. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to respective base stations as recited in Claim 26, wherein said analyzing step a) comprises intelligently evaluating network parameters for each of said identified servers.

28. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to respective base stations as recited in Claim 27, wherein said analyzing step a) comprises intelligently evaluating system parameters such as server and network parameters selected from the group consisting of ~~comprising~~: computation load; network bandwidth to base station; and potential that either said first or said second multiple description bitstreams are previously stored thereon for each of said identified servers.

29. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to respective base stations as recited in Claim 24, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

[[d)] upon receiving said request for said first candidate server to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said first base station along said first path, performing an admission process to determine whether said first candidate server will provide said first multiple description bitstream to said first base station along said first path.

30. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to respective base stations as recited in Claim 24, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

[[d)] upon receiving said request for said second candidate server to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said second base station along said second path, performing an admission process to determine whether said second candidate server will provide said second multiple description bitstream to said second base station along said second path.

31. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to respective base stations as recited in Claim 29, wherein said admission process ~~of step d)~~ provides an outcome selected from the group consisting of comprising: granting permission to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said first base station, refusing permission to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said first base station, and granting permission to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said first base station with the identification an existing multiple description bitstream for potential redistribution to another of said plurality of servers.

32. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to respective base stations as recited in Claim 30, wherein said admission process ~~of step d)~~ provides an outcome selected from the group consisting of comprising: granting permission to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said second base station, refusing permission to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said second base station, and granting permission to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said second base station with the identification an existing multiple description bitstream for potential redistribution to another of said plurality of servers.

33. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having computer readable code stored thereon for causing a network device to assign servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to respective base stations, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

[[a))] upon receiving a request from a mobile client to have media data streamed thereto, said media data comprising an item of content encoded into a first multiple description bitstream and into a second

multiple description bitstream, wherein said first multiple description bitstream and said second multiple description bitstream are decodable independent of one another, said network device analyzing a plurality of servers to determine a first candidate server for providing said a first multiple description bitstream to a first base station along a first path and a second candidate server for providing said a second multiple description bitstream to a second base station along a second path; and

[[b)]] sending to said first candidate server a request for said first candidate server to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said first base station; and

[[c)]] sending to said second candidate server a request for said second candidate server to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said second base station.

34. (Currently Amended) A method for assigning a single server to provide multiple description bitstreams to a plurality of base stations, said method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

[[a)]] upon receiving a request from a mobile client to have media data streamed thereto, said media data comprising an item of content encoded into a first multiple description bitstream and into a second multiple description bitstream, wherein said first multiple description bitstream and said second multiple description bitstream are decodable independent of one another, analyzing a plurality of servers to determine a single candidate server for providing said a first multiple description bitstream to a first base station along a first path and for providing said a second multiple description bitstream to a second base station along a second path; and

[[b)]] sending to said single candidate server a request for said single candidate server to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said

first base station; and

[[c)] sending to said single candidate server a request for said single candidate server to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said second base station.

35. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning a single server to provide multiple description bitstreams to a plurality of base stations as recited in Claim 34, wherein said analyzing step a) comprises receiving said request from said mobile client at one of said plurality of base stations, and forwarding said request to said single candidate server.

36. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning a single server to provide multiple description bitstreams to a plurality of base stations as recited in Claim 34, wherein said analyzing step a) comprises identifying, from said plurality of servers, servers having a route to a first base station and a second base station to provide identified servers.

37. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning a single server to provide multiple description bitstreams to a plurality of base stations as recited in Claim 36, wherein said analyzing step a) comprises intelligently evaluating network parameters for said identified servers.

38. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning a single server to provide multiple description bitstreams to a plurality of base stations as recited in Claim 37, wherein said analyzing step a) comprises intelligently evaluating system parameters such as server and network parameters selected from the group consisting of ~~comprising~~: computation load; network bandwidth to said first base station and said second base station; and potential that either said first or said second multiple description

bitstreams are previously stored thereon for each of said identified servers.

39. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning a single server to provide multiple description bitstreams to a plurality of base stations as recited in Claim 34, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

[[d)]] upon receiving said request for said single candidate server to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said first base station along said first path, performing an admission process to determine whether said single candidate server will provide said first multiple description bitstream to said first base station along said first path and whether said second candidate server will provide said second multiple description bitstream to said second base station along said second path.

40. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning a single server to provide multiple description bitstreams to a plurality of base stations as recited in Claim 39, wherein said admission process ~~of step d)~~ provides an outcome selected from the group consisting of ~~comprising~~: granting permission to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said first base station and said second multiple description bitstream to said second base station, refusing permission to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said first base station and said second multiple description bitstream to said second base station, and granting permission to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said first base station and said second multiple description bitstream to said second base station with the identification an existing multiple description bitstream for potential redistribution to another of said plurality of servers.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having computer readable code stored thereon for causing a network device to assign a single server to provide multiple description bitstreams to a plurality of base stations, said method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

[[a]] upon receiving a request from a mobile client to have media data streamed thereto, said media data comprising an item of content encoded into a first multiple description bitstream and into a second multiple description bitstream, wherein said first multiple description bitstream and said second multiple description bitstream are decodable independent of one another, said network device analyzing a plurality of servers to determine a single candidate server for providing said a first multiple description bitstream to a first base station along a first path and for providing said a second multiple description bitstream to a second base station along a second path; ~~and~~

[[b]] sending to said single candidate server a request for said single candidate server to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said first base station; and

[[c]] sending to said single candidate server a request for said single candidate server to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said second base station.

42. (Currently Amended) A method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a fixed client, said method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

[[a]] upon receiving a request from a fixed client to have media data streamed thereto, said media data comprising an item of content encoded into a first multiple description bitstream and into a second multiple description bitstream, wherein said first multiple description bitstream and said second multiple description bitstream are decodable independent of

one another, analyzing a plurality of servers to determine a first candidate server for providing said a first multiple description bitstream to said fixed client along a first path and a second candidate server for providing said a second multiple description bitstream to said fixed client along a second path; and

[[b)]] sending to said first candidate server a request for said first candidate server to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said fixed client; and

[[c)]] sending to said second candidate server a request for said second candidate server to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said fixed client.

43. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a fixed client as recited in Claim 42, wherein said analyzing step a) comprises receiving said request from said fixed client at one of said plurality of servers, and forwarding said request to one of said plurality of servers.

44. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a fixed client as recited in Claim 42, wherein said analyzing step a) comprises identifying, from said plurality of servers, servers having a route to said fixed client to provide identified servers.

45. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a fixed client as recited in Claim 44, wherein said analyzing step a) comprises intelligently evaluating network parameters for each of said identified servers.

46. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a fixed client as recited in Claim 45, wherein said analyzing step-a) comprises intelligently evaluating system parameters such as server and network parameters selected from the group consisting of ~~comprising~~: computation load; network bandwidth to fixed client; and potential that either said first or said second multiple description bitstreams are previously stored thereon for each of said identified servers.

47. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a fixed client as recited in Claim 42, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

[[d)] upon receiving said request for said first candidate server to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said fixed client along said first path, performing an admission process to determine whether said first candidate server will provide said first multiple description bitstream to said fixed client along said first path.

48. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a fixed client as recited in Claim 42, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

[[d)] upon receiving said request for said second candidate server to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said fixed client along said second path, performing an admission process to determine whether said second candidate server will provide said second multiple description bitstream to said fixed client along said second path.

49. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a fixed client as recited in Claim 47, wherein said admission process ~~of step d)~~ provides an outcome selected from the group consisting of comprising: granting permission to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said fixed client, refusing permission to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said fixed client, and granting permission to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said fixed client with the identification an existing multiple description bitstream for potential redistribution to another of said plurality of servers.

50. (Currently Amended) The method for assigning servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a fixed client as recited in Claim 48, wherein said admission process ~~of step d)~~ provides an outcome selected from the group consisting of comprising: granting permission to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said fixed client, refusing permission to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said fixed client, and granting permission to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said fixed client with the identification an existing multiple description bitstream for potential redistribution to another of said plurality of servers.

51. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having computer readable code stored thereon for causing a network device to assign servers to provide multiple description bitstreams to a fixed client, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

[[a)] upon receiving a request from a fixed client to have media data streamed thereto, said media data comprising an item of content encoded into a first multiple description bitstream and into a second multiple

description bitstream, wherein said first multiple description bitstream and said second multiple description bitstream are decodable independent of one another, said network device analyzing a plurality of servers to determine a first candidate server for providing said a first multiple description bitstream to said fixed client along a first path and a second candidate server for providing said a second multiple description bitstream to said fixed client along a second path; and

[[b)]] sending to said first candidate server a request for said first candidate server to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said fixed client; and

[[c)]] sending to said second candidate server a request for said second candidate server to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said fixed client.

52. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 51 wherein said computer readable medium further includes computer readable code stored thereon for causing said network device performing said analyzing step-a) to receive said request from said fixed client at one of said plurality of servers, and forward said request to one of said plurality of servers.

53. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 51 wherein said computer readable medium further includes computer readable code stored thereon for causing said network device performing said analyzing step-a to identify from said plurality of servers, servers having a route to said fixed client to provide identified servers.

54. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 53 wherein said computer readable medium further includes computer readable code stored thereon for causing said network device performing said analyzing step-a to evaluate network parameters for each of said identified servers.

55. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 54 wherein said computer readable medium further includes computer readable code stored thereon for causing said network device performing said analyzing step-a to evaluate system parameters such as server and network parameters selected from the group consisting of comprising: computation load; network bandwidth to fixed client; and potential that either said first or said second multiple description bitstreams are previously stored thereon for each of said identified servers.

56. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 51 wherein said computer readable medium further includes computer readable code stored thereon for causing said network device to further perform ~~the step of~~:

[[d]]) upon receiving said request for said first candidate server to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said fixed client along said first path, performing an admission process to determine whether said first candidate server will provide said first multiple description bitstream to said fixed client along said first path.

57. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 51 wherein said computer readable medium further includes computer readable code stored thereon for causing said network device to further perform ~~the step of~~:

[[d]]) upon receiving said request for said second candidate server to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said fixed client along said second path, performing an admission process to determine whether said second candidate server will provide said second multiple description bitstream to said fixed client along said second path.

58. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 56 wherein said computer readable medium further includes computer readable code stored thereon for causing said network device performing said admission process step d) to provide an outcome selected from the group consisting of comprising: granting permission to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said fixed client along said first path, refusing permission to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said fixed client along said first path, and granting permission to provide said first multiple description bitstream to said fixed client along said first path with the identification an existing multiple description bitstream for potential redistribution to another of said plurality of servers.

59. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 57 wherein said computer readable medium further includes computer readable code stored thereon for causing said network device performing said admission process step d) to provide an outcome selected from the group comprising: granting permission to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said fixed client along said second path, refusing permission to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said fixed client along said second path, and granting permission to provide said second multiple description bitstream to said fixed client along said second path with the identification an existing multiple description bitstream for potential redistribution to another of said plurality of servers.